

Plane News

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August 2010 - Summer



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Plane News Joins the Online Age

You may have been wondering where *Plane News* has been. We took some time to break down the process and find out how we could do it better, greener, and more efficiently, using less time and less money. The result? This website.

Information regarding County of San Diego Airports will now be readily accessible to anyone with computer access; you can even sign up for updates to be sent directly to your email inbox. We have cut staff time and production cost dramatically by switching to this online version.

We can update you more often with local news stories regarding County Airports; important information relevant to aviation rules and regulations; and let you know about upcoming community events without the hassle and mess of a paper newsletter. We hope you enjoy the new format!

Thank you for your continued interest and support!



Sarah Solis, Editor & Webmaster

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Ramona Airport 2010 Open House

By Bo Donovan, Ramona Airport Contract Manager

On Saturday, September 18, Ramona Airport will host the annual Open House. It will begin with a pancake breakfast starting at 7:00 a.m. presented by the Ramona Senior Center.

From 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. there will be a “Tricked Out Big Rig Truck Show” featuring over 30 Peterbilts, Kenworths, Freight Liners and other brand new and vintage big rig trucks that have been painted, chromed and shined up for all to see. On display and providing demonstrations will be Mercy Air’s helicopter and the San Diego County Sheriff Department’s fire and rescue helicopters.



Also featured will be several vintage static aircraft displays. Tours of the Air Traffic Control Tower, Classic Rotors Helicopter Museum, the U.S. Forest Service Helitac Base and the CalFire Air Attack Base will be offered.

The U.S. Forest Service will present a crafts fair, games and a visit by Smokey The Bear to promote fire and forest safety for the kids. Ramona Airport businesses such as Ramona Avionics,

Chuck Hall Aviation, Cruiseair Aviation and Pacific Executive Aviation will be open to visitors.

Just before noon, a special Mexican Fiesta Lunch will be served by Ramona's Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant.

With the exception of breakfast and lunch, the event and all parking is free.

Compass Points

Safety is always a primary concern in the operation of airports; however, the responsibility for aviation safety is multifaceted. The design standards and maintenance of an airport are largely the responsibility of the owner, in our case, County of San Diego Airports. The operation of the aircraft is the responsibility of the pilot in command who must always have final airship authority and control regardless of external conditions including air traffic.

Recently, we have had a number of reminders that flying can be unforgiving to those who do not think ahead of their aircraft and plan for the unexpected. Attending safety seminars is a good way for pilots to learn about relevant issues to improve flight safety. We hope the San Diego 20th Annual Super Safety Seminar scheduled for September 11 at Gillespie Field Air & Space Museum Annex will be well-attended.

For further information, contact info@aviationsafety-sd.org

Blue skies & happy landings!



Pete Drinkwater, Director of Airports

Magellan Aviation FBO Due On Arrival!

By Ian Hodgson, Associate Property Agent



Magellan Aviation is excited to announce the opening of McClellan-Palomar Airport's newest full-service Fixed Base Operator (FBO). The new 11,000-square-foot FBO reception center and office building will begin operating upon completion in late summer 2010.



The well-designed and extremely user-friendly FBO building will feature natural light filtering through glass on three sides of the building; it will have a spacious two-story lobby and easily accessible parking in close proximity to the FBO building. The inlaid design features at the FBO are based upon Ferdinand Magellan's first circumnavigation of the globe and all offices for lease will have either panoramic runway or taxiway views.

In addition to the FBO, Magellan has also built eight new hangars ranging from 1,843 square feet to over 29,000 square feet, as well as four storefront offices, a large portion of which have already been signed to long term leases.



A grand opening celebration for the new Facility will be scheduled soon!

[New Compass Rose at Ramona Airport](#)

By Bo Donovan, Ramona Airport Contract Manager

The NOTAM closing the Ramona compass rose has been canceled and our brand new, beautifully painted, compass rose is back in service.

What a landmark! Bet you can't find a better one anywhere in the country...well, OK, Gillespie Field's is pretty nice too. Not only did we get a new paint job, but the points were recently surveyed and are dead on.

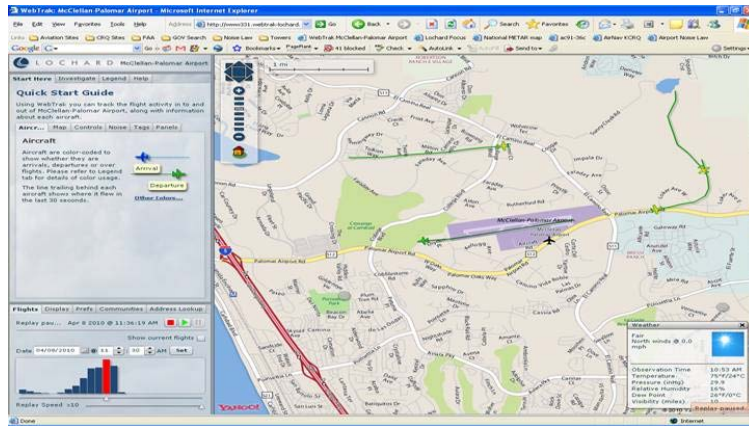
We owe a huge thank you to Frankie Clemens and Heather Gamble for their leadership and all of their 99s who worked so hard and did such a fantastic job.



[WebTrak has arrived at McClellan-Palomar Airport!](#)

By Dan Thompson, Administrative Secretary

In July, McClellan-Palomar Airport began offering a new service to its neighbors. North County public now has access, day or night, to WebTrak, which provides web-based access to aircraft movements. Using this technology, area residents and business people can track flights departing from and arriving at the airport, as well as aircraft passing through the airspace. People will be able to determine the precise height at which the aircraft was flying while passing over their home or business. The system also provides them with noise level information. If a resident wants to research a flight that flew in the past, they can access historical data allowing them to research the information at their leisure.



This technology will also enable County Airports staff to have verifiable information at their fingertips in researching the public's concerns. Through this new system, County Airports is continuing to assert their desire to work with and reach out to the public.

For more information, [click here for the Palomar Noise Abatement page](#)

[Wings Over Gillespie 2010](#)

By Roger Griffiths, Gillespie Field Airport Manager



Crowds not only enjoyed viewing the aircraft on display but also took advantage of the wide variety of vendors on site throughout the show.



Back by popular demand, the Northrup Flying Wing made its first appearance in a number of years at Wings Over Gillespie. The aircraft put on a wonderful flying display and was closely viewed by many while parked in the static viewing area.



As with last year, a large contingent of WWII re-enactors wowed the crowd, not only with their authentic appearance but also with a realistic portrayal of a D-Day battle.



One of two beautiful P-51 Mustangs to grace the show this year. The polished silver really shone with the great weather.



A rare visitor to Gillespie Field, this replica of a WWII Royal Air Force Spitfire was a welcome addition to the show this year.



A popular sight at Gillespie Field, vintage Stearman training aircraft make a formation pass over the airfield trailing smoke.

[Click here for story regarding Wings Over Gillespie 2010 highlights](#)

[SDSU Students Research GIS at Gillespie Field](#)

By Eric Nelson, Airports Engineer, and Mike Carson, Airports Maintenance Supervisor

On June 17, airport staff met with SDSU Department of Geography students to discuss the future of airport aerial mapping using satellite imagery and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The students work with the FAA and conduct experimental studies to help determine what information can or cannot be acquired or verified and with what degree of spatial accuracy by use of high resolution satellite imagery (similar to what you can see on Google Earth) and GIS technology.



Instructor Pete Coulter and student Jeremy Metcalf look on as Julie Paulsen, Engineering Technician, demonstrates County Airport GIS technology

Airport staff and students discussed topics such as; variations of runway types, existing and proposed navigation systems, aircraft arresting systems and the importance of accurate airport markings. Mike Carson, County Airports' Maintenance Supervisor, took the students on a tour of the Gillespie airfield which allowed the students an opportunity to see airport operations firsthand. He answered poignant questions regarding airfield layout.



From left to right: Instructor Pete Coulter with SDSU students Mike Caldwell, Cindy Tsai and Jeremy Metcalf

Upon their return from the airfield and to complete the tour, the students were shown some of the airport's GIS layers typically mapped according to FAA requirements overlaid on 2009 Orthophotos.

County of San Diego Airports staff is dedicated to local students and looks forward to participating in future projects involving student of all ages.

Looking for a specific story? Check out our [Plane News archive](#)

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